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are placed in the eosin solution, as in the case of mould-cultures.

For preparing the cultures, Pasteur's or Mayer's fluid, with pepsin [see Huxley and Martin's Practical Biology], but not containing more than five per cent. of sugar, is heated with Iceland moss until the mixture attains such a consistency that it will just solidify when cold (fifteen to thirty minutes). It is then filtered by means of a hot filter into small glass flasks, which are afterwards plugged with cotton-wool, and sterilized at 65° to 70° C. by the ordinary method. When required for use, the mass is liquefied by gentle heat, poured on the slides, and allowed to solidify. The spores are sown by a needle-point, touched once to a mass of spores, and thereupon drawn across several films in succession, the spores being thus scattered along the track of the needle, and more or less completely isolated. Care must be taken that the quantity of sugar be not too great. The films should be tolerably thick, and the atmosphere of the moist chamber such that the films neither dry nor liquefy.

[My thanks are due to Miss Harriet Randolph, whose experiments with various substrata and staining-fluids led to the adoption of the method described].—*Edmund B. Wilson, Biological Laboratory of Bryn Mawr College.*

SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

—W. Baldwin Spencer, of Lincoln College, Oxford, has been appointed to the chair of Biology in the University of Melbourne. He is a pupil of Professor H. N. Moseley. He has published papers on the urinary organs of Amphipods and on the neurenteric canal of the Batrachia, but probably his best known work is that in which he shows that the pineal gland is the remains of the third vertebrate eye, and that in certain existing lizards it still retains all of its optical structure, though it is probably not functional.

—The Buffalo Society of Natural Science is at last provided with suitable quarters. It has long occupied rooms in the old building of the Young Men's Association of Buffalo, but they have been inadequate for the accommodation of the library and collections. The Young Men's Association has also been cramped for room, and a few years ago they began the erection of a new building, which has at last been completed, at a cost of about three hundred thousand dollars. It occupies a very eligible site, and architecturally would be an ornament to any city. The building was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies Monday evening, February 7. It will be occupied by the Buffalo Library, the Buffalo Historical Society, the Buffalo Academy of Fine Arts, and the Buffalo Society of Natural Science. The latter society have ample accommodations in the western portion of the basement. Professor D. S. Kellicott, the president of the Society of Natural Science, gave the address for that society. This society was organized in December, 1861, and its history has been one of continual progress. It has accumulated a fine museum, which is especially rich in local forms. The collection of fossils of the Waterlime group is noteworthy. Nowhere in America can be seen a better collection of Eurypterids, those strange Limulus-like forms which were a prominent feature in the Palæozoic seas. The first president, the late Judge Clinton, gave the society his valuable herbarium, while its entomological collection contains many of the type-specimens of the late Colman T. Robinson, A. R. Grote, L. F. Hervey, D. S. Kellicott, and others. The library is especially rich in entomological works. At present the society is somewhat cramped for funds, but in time it will be amply provided with money. Its late president, Dr. George E. Hayes, left about two hundred thousand dollars, which, after the death of his widow, are to come into the possession of the society. At present its funds are principally from the bequest of the late Professor C. T. Robinson. We are glad to learn that the meetings of the society have never been better attended or the discussions and papers more interesting than at present.

—The Johns Hopkins University will have its marine laboratory this year at Nassau, N. P. The party will sail about March 1, and will stay until July 1, if not longer. It is proposed to hire a building for the laboratory. Dr. W. K. Brooks will be in charge as usual.

PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

Boston Society of Natural History.—January 19, 1887.—On account of the inclemency of the weather the regular paper of the evening was postponed, and Dr. J. S. Kingsley gave some of his recent observations on the embryology of Arthropods. A peculiar feature was noticed in the development of Decapods, in that the germ from the eyes to the tip of the abdomen was actually longer in early than in later stages. An explanation of this fact is difficult. Dr. Kingsley also referred to the classification of Arthropods and their derivation from Worms. Dr. C. S. Minot gave a *résumé* of observations on the origin of the tracheæ of Hexapods, and suggested that they supported Dr. Kingsley's view that these organs were not homologous in Arachnids and Hexapods. Professor W. T. Sedgwick spoke of the extrusion of trichocysts in Paramecium under the stimulation of tannic acid.

February 2.—Dr. Kingsley gave his paper postponed from the preceding meeting. He maintained that the terms "centrolecithal" as applied to Arthropod eggs, and "superficial" as de-